浙江大学手册
Zhèjiāng dàxué shǒucè

Hangzhou, China Handbook

University of Rhode Island

Chinese International Engineering Program
# Table of Contents

- Introduction 3
- Overview of the city Hangzhou 4
- Boost your Chinese Confidence 5
- Scholarships 5
- Money, Communication 8-11
- Time Zone, Weather, Clothing, Packing 11

## Upon Arrival 16
- Transportation 16
- Logistics for Living in China upon Arrival 18
- Living 19
- Entertainment 20
- Shopping 21
- Language 22
- Zhejiang University Outline 23
- Dormitories 23
- Classes 24
- University Rules 26
- Useful Phrases 26
- Healthcare 28
- Health Vocabulary 29
**Introduction**

This guide is meant to be a practical one. It is meant to help prepare you for China and to help give you an idea about how Zhejiang University differs from the University of Rhode Island. This guide will hopefully serve as a base to work from in dealing with these differences. Everyone will have a different experience in China, and as with any school year, it will have its ups and downs. Just work hard, stay healthy, and have a fun learning experience. Do your best to talk to people who have been to China before you go, and to go with an open mind. Go with patience and flexibility (you will need it)!

Your time in China is meant to be a time of discovery - a time to discover a new language and culture and a time to learn more about yourself.

When you arrive, go out on your own and just observe. Observe how people interact with friends, workers and family. Observe how sales transactions are made. Observe how one orders food in a restaurant. Observe mannerisms. Observe a religious service. Observe a class. Observe how university students live and work. It also helps to take a friend who has lived in China along because they know the most interesting places to do these things.

All this observation will allow you to better adapt to the culture, so that you may make the most of your experience. Think about what you have observed and how it is different from the life to which you are accustomed. Think about why it is different. Talk to people about it. Ask for their opinions. Keep a journal or a blog.

The China study abroad crew of 2009-10 who helped put this together:
Rachael Browning, Barry Blackington, Joseph Hackman
Edited in 2017 by Zachary R.H. Smith
Edited in 2018 by Eric Reels
Edited in 2020 by Dylan Kennedy
Hangzhou

Hangzhou is the capital of Zhejiang Province located in southeast China just 115 miles southwest of Shanghai. Considered by the Chinese to be a small city, it has a population of around 7 million! It lies at the southern end of the Grand Canal, which was constructed beginning in the 5th century B.C. and which links the city with Beijing. The meshing of old and new can truly be seen throughout the city. Hangzhou has a very modern downtown with new high-rise, luxury apartment buildings going up everywhere you look, but there are still areas that look like “old China.” The gap between rich and poor is expansive and growing. Although Hangzhou is one of the wealthiest cities in China, the median income is still only about $100 (or 800 RMB) per month.

Hangzhou is considered by the Chinese to be “heaven on earth.” There is a Chinese saying stating, “In heaven there is paradise. On earth there are Hangzhou and Suzhou.” Its West Lake (西湖XiHu) is a popular destination of tourists and locals alike. When the weather is nice, it seems everyone in the city is at Xihu. In spring the willow trees, plum trees and flowers surrounding the lake are in bloom. Many people take a picnic and spend the day in one of the many parks around the lake. With the hills to the south and west of the lake and the city to the north and east, it is a very beautiful place to stroll and relax.

The city itself is a great place to live with a lot to offer, and it has won an International Award for Liveable Communities. There is a nice downtown with many shops, restaurants, and tea houses. Hefang Street (Hefang Jie) is an old Chinese street with many touristy shops and tasty snacks. Nanshan Road, which runs along the east side of Xihu has many bars and some clubs that are popular with foreigners and some older students. There are many hiking trails in the hills near West Lake, including some you can access from the Zhejiang University 浙江大学 campus. There is also a thriving Afro-Latin Dance scene in Hangzhou for those who are interested in exploring the dances of salsa, bachata, kizomba, and afrobeats. To find this community, check out local bars such as 9Bar, Socia10, and Wade’s or ask other foreigners.

Some popular spots you should not miss are Lingyin Temple, Wushan Square and Hefang Street, Lei Feng Pagoda, Liu He Pagoda, Longjing or Meijiawu tea villages (especially in spring), and more. Pick up tourist information on Hangzhou from the reception desk in the International Center for specific spots of interest around West Lake.
Check out Hangzhou on the Web:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hangzhou
http://www.travelchinaguide.com/cityguides/hangzhou.htm

China News and Information:
http://www.china.org.cn/english/index.htm

Introduction to China’s Provinces and Autonomous Regions:
http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/ProvinceView/156519.htm

Boost your Chinese Confidence
Trust me, I know, Chinese people can talk fast. And it can be a daunting task to engage in conversation with locals. That being said, DO IT. There is no better way to learn Chinese and perfect your pronunciation than speaking with locals. Below are a couple websites and phone apps that can help both the summer before going to China and while you are living in Hangzhou. The best practice for living in China is to visit China. You can see if there is a Winter J-Term trip, where you can get exposed to the culture and language in a way that no Chinese class can prepare you for.

● PLECO – A Chinese to English dictionary app for your smartphone. Probably the most important tool you will use, your Laoshi’s should have already made you download this, but if not, do so, I would have a longer list of apps/ websites but this encompasses everything.
● HelloChinese – An app for learning Chinese on the go. If you are familiar with Duolingo, its exactly the same but for Chinese.
● Watch Chinese television shows! These can be found on Youtube or certain sites such as YouKu TV (http://tv.youku.com/), Tudou TV (http://tv.tudou.com/), PPTV (http://tv.pptv.com/) Many of these shows have subtitles in Chinese or English and if you’re lucky, both!
● Chinese Movies can be found on Youtube as well. A good technique is to watch a movie once with English Subtitles to understand the plot then watch it again within the same week with either with Chinese Subtitles or no subtitles. This will force you to listen to the Chinese while still knowing the general gist of the film. Some personal favorites of mine are Ip Man 1 and 2, Secret, Hero, Chongqing Hot Pot, and Kung Fu Hustle.
● Practice makes perfect. Do not get discouraged! It’s hard work and some movies are more difficult to understand than others. Ip Man 1 is a great movie to watch after CHN 205/206, it has a lot of vocab covered in those two courses.
● There is also a Chinese Tea Time, which meets for about an hour and we play games, do Chinese art/calligraphy, watch movies, etc. In order to find this tea time, ask some of the local students and they will be happy to help you.

Timeline for Preparing for your Year Abroad
During the fall semester of your junior year, Dr. Berka, the CIEP Director, will contact you to set up a meeting. This preliminary meeting will be used in order to discuss
your study abroad options. Visit the Chinese International Engineering Program page to view a timeline and learn more about how to prepare for your year abroad. Part of this preparation will include mandatory paperwork that you need to fill out in URI Abroad for your application and permission to study abroad, your application to the host institution as well as pre-departure orientations, and visa advising. Be sure to pay close attention to the deadlines listed in the timeline and to follow all the processes and guidelines so that you stay on track to complete everything. IEP works very hard to ensure that you are selected to attend your chosen program, however nothing is guaranteed. The program is a direct exchange with our partnering universities. Therefore the number of slots at partner universities is limited and may change from year to year.

**Scholarships for Studying abroad**

Trust us, you’re going to want to have all of the money you possibly can when you are abroad. Whether it is $20,000 or $20, any amount of scholarship money helps you immensely. Apply to any scholarship in which you are eligible because you never know what may happen! Keep in mind that the majority of scholarship applications require recommendation letters. Make a note of the deadlines and ask for references at least a month in advance. You know how you dislike it when professors give large assignments at the last minute? Well professors and other mentors would appreciate more advanced notice, too. You probably will not get the best recommendation letter if the writer is chugging coffee and rubbing their eyes the night before it’s due. That is, if they agree to write you one at all!

Make sure to occasionally check the IEP specific scholarship website, especially Chinese Government Scholarships, Critical Language Scholarships and the Freeman-Asia Scholarship ([https://web.uri.edu/engineering/academics/iep/scholarships/](https://web.uri.edu/engineering/academics/iep/scholarships/)), as there may be new scholarships posted for which you all could be eligible.

**Visa**

- Be sure to follow guidance from OIE regarding the visa process and keep up with the visa application timeline.
- There are visa services, such as Travisa, that will send your application to the consulate for you for a fee, saving you the trip to NYC.
- If family or friends plan to travel to China to visit you, they will need a tourist visa, so plan accordingly. It is possible to obtain a visa within two weeks, but you should allow a month or two to be safe.

**Money**

**How do I access Chinese money?**
The most efficient and economical way to acquire Chinese Renminbi (RMB) is with an ATM card that can be used overseas. Check with your bank before departing for China to be sure yours can be used in Hangzhou. Most students have success with Bank of China, ICBC, and China Construction Bank ATMs. For those of you with Citizen Bank ATM card, Bank of China ATMs are the most reliable. Using an ATM to withdraw money gives the legal exchange rate but typically bank and ATM fees eat into the total withdrawal amount.

To really save money with transaction fees, you can use a Bank of America ATM card at any China Construction Bank ATM. Currently they have a partnership with CCB and there are no conversion or withdrawal fees. Opening a student checking account is very simple and free for 4 years as long as a parent has a Bank of America account.

As a backup plan, request a second ATM card from your bank before you leave for China in case you lose one. Getting a replacement can be close to impossible, especially while using a non-international bank.

**Be sure to ask your bank before you depart for Hangzhou about fees and surcharges in China and about minimum/maximum withdrawal amounts and to ensure they don’t deactivate your card thinking it has been stolen.**

**Beware: ATM machines at other banks in China have been known to eat ATM cards and have OS failures.**

**Where can I exchange U.S. dollars?**

It would be easiest to do this before departing for China (order from your bank) or at the airport immediately after arriving in China. The only common bank in China that will exchange foreign currency for non-Chinese is the Bank of China, this can only be done at the main branch in Hangzhou. Sometimes you may need a Chinese friend to accompany you.

**Can I use Travelers’ Cheques?**

It is not advisable to rely on Travelers’ Cheques to acquire RMB while in China. Only specific banks accept them and you will probably need to take a friend along to translate, as most bank tellers do not speak English.

**Are credit cards accepted in many locations?**

Most shopping will be done at small stores or street vendors, so cash or a smartphone with WeChat or Alipay is essential. Do not rely on your credit card in China. Credit cards are not accepted in most stores in Hangzhou. They are accepted in some hotels and perhaps in the larger, international stores in Shanghai, but it is not advisable to rely on them. It would be wise, however, to carry one credit card with you for emergencies, preferably a Visa or MasterCard, as these are the most widely accepted cards. Some
stores may also not accept foreign cards of any kind, but if you end up in trouble health-wise, Sir Run Run Hospital in Hangzhou accepts major credit cards!

Update 2020:
The Chinese also use the WeChat wallet or AliPay apps to pay for nearly everything. You can link your bank account to the application and then use it to pay. You can use cash at most locations, but if you use cash to pay at most places you will appear more foreign than anything. The locals use WeChat and Alipay for everything from interpersonal transactions to takeout, train tickets, hotels, plane tickets, and more. It is highly suggested that once you arrive in China you set up your Chinese bank account and connect it to these apps as fast as possible. Not having access to these apps or knowing how to utilize them to their fullest extent will severely limit your capabilities while abroad. On the other hand, learning and mastering these apps will essentially put the world at your fingertips.

**Communication**

**How do I call home from China?**

For making International phone calls there are a few options. The simplest way to call home is to use an online based program such as Skype. You can also use WeChat or Whatsapp if your friends and family have also downloaded these apps. Keep in mind however that Whatsapp sometimes requires the use of a VPN.

**Will I need a cell phone?**

Yes. The entire Chinese society functions off of smartphones and apps. It is highly recommended that you obtain a cell phone that can work with the Chinese apps and networks. Having a cell phone will make having a social life much easier while in China. Most university students and professionals have them and use them constantly. **Keep in mind that it is considered rude not to answer a text message or call right away**. It is perfectly fine to write text messages or answer the phone while at dinner with friends or colleagues, many students will leave to talk on the phone or just message during class, even some teachers do this.

You may want to consider getting a smartphone that can handle apps such as email and WeChat. Before heading out, speak with your provider about whether your phone can be unlocked to function with networks in China.

**Can I use the cell phone I already have?**

If you have a SIM card in your phone and it is a tri-band phone, then you will be able to use it in China provided you purchase a new SIM card when you arrive there. SIM cards can be purchased from street vendors for about 100 RMB (includes 50 RMB of talk/text
time and is rechargeable.) It is also possible to purchase a sim card from one of the major Chinese network providers such as China Telecom. It is best to buy a phone once you get there because you will most likely want to send and receive character text messages with your Chinese friends. The phone that you purchase in China will also most likely come with all of the necessary apps built in, or at least be able to handle them.

**What kind of internet connection will I have in the dorm at Zhejiang University?**

In order to access the University Wifi you must take your proof of registration/attendance to the “IT Desk” in the Yuquan library where they will provide you with instructions for accessing the wifi. You can also ask your teachers or fellow classmates how to complete this process if you are unsure.

Each room is connected to a proxy server based broadband connection. The connection fee is 80 RMB and the monthly usage costs about 50 RMB. Be forewarned: Facebook, Twitter, Google sites and YouTube are just some of the many websites blocked in China. Many foreigners either pay a secondary proxy server to hide your IP address or cycle through lists of free proxy servers to gain some access to these websites. There are a wide range of VPNs that are available to download to circumvent this issue. A quick Google search for some of the more popular ones will point you in the right direction. It is recommended that you use multiple VPNs because sometimes a certain VPN might get temporarily blocked, leaving you without any backup options.

Because of China’s relationship with Google, you may want to set up an alternative email address for use while you are in China (Yahoo usually works), and make sure to give it to your family members and IEP/IBP/ICSP staff before you leave.

**Time Zone**

**What is the time difference between RI and China?**

From April until October, China is 12 hours ahead of RI, but when RI falls back in October, China does not. Therefore, from October until April, there is a 13-hour time difference. All of China officially runs on Beijing time and does not observe Daylight Savings Time. Fortunately, Hangzhou is in the Beijing time zone, which means daylight and time hours will feel normal.

**Weather**

*After a February snowfall at Zhejiang University City College*

**What is the weather like in Hangzhou?**
Spring and fall are beautiful in Hangzhou with low humidity and temperatures in the 70s. June is the rainiest month, but also the beginning of summer. Summer in Hangzhou lasts from June-September and is hot and VERY humid with average temperatures in the 90s. Many places do not have A/C, although businesses downtown and foreign student dorms do have it. Winters are not as cold as in Rhode Island but are humid, creating a cold-to-the-bone feeling. It does snow occasionally. A typical snowfall leaves about an inch on the ground, which draws thousands of students out of their dorms to build snowmen and throw a few snowballs around. The snow then melts a few hours later. This does not sound so bad until you imagine that buildings do not typically have heat – no escape from the cold! Most buildings in Hangzhou, including the international dormitories do not have insulation so keeping warm or cool can be tough. Take a walk through the university library in February or March and you will find students bundled up in down jackets, scarves and warm hats poring over class notes.

**Clothing**

**What should I wear?**

Most students tend to wear jeans and a T-shirt or a sweater to class, but some wear skirts, fashionable tops and nice shoes or boots. Do not be shocked to see your Chinese friends and teachers wearing the same clothing for multiple days in a row.

This part is more for the girls, as male clothing is pretty much the same as in the U.S. with less Dolce and sparkles. In general, the Chinese dress more conservatively than Americans do, but young girls very commonly wear very short skirts and shorts. During summer months, young women do begin wearing tank tops. Wearing revealing clothing could draw even more (and possible negative) attention because you are a foreigner. If you find that you need/want more clothes while you are in China, the shopping is good and can be very cheap. Available sizes are much smaller than in the U.S., however, making it difficult for people of average size in the U.S. or larger to find clothing at a wide variety of locations. The average sized female chest fits tightly in XLs and one size fits all clothing. Most stores do not let you try on clothing so you might want to get a cloth tape measure and be familiar with your sizes in order to help figure out your chances in fitting. Yiwu (about 1.5 hours by train west of Hangzhou) is where most everything from China moves out of. You can find Western clothes at the Yiwu night market. These days clothing (and almost everything else under the sun) can be purchased on Taobao, which is the Chinese equivalent of Amazon.

Most shoe stores max out at women’s size 40 shoes (8 ½ U.S.) and men’s size 42 although most shoes are smaller with these larger sizes being in the less attractive styles. The women’s shoe capital of the world is Wenzhou, which is only a few hours south of Hangzhou.
**Packing**

**What should I pack?**

Try to leave as much free space as possible in your luggage. Almost anything needed for daily life can be found in stores there. Most personal care brands that we know in the U.S. can be found here also, i.e. Pantene, Clean&Clear, Herbal Essences, Crest, but flavors and product formulations are different.

Razors are also not the most pleasant things to buy for girls, and you may have to buy a man’s razor. Most of the Chinese population rarely shaves, if ever, so the selection is small and pricing is high. Keep in mind that while it may be rare but possible to find razors, it is almost impossible to find electric shavers. It is suggested that if you use one of these to bring your own or try to find one on Taobao. Local stores will not have these in stock.

There is a Walmart about a 10 minute walk from the Yuquan campus that holds a lot of foreign brands and is an excellent resource for setting up your dorm room and purchasing hygiene products.

**Necessities in Packing**

**Renminbi** – At least 2000RMB should be brought with you. You need money for the bus to Hangzhou and any cab you may also take. Once you arrive you must give the International College front desk your room deposit. This deposit is necessary before you can even move your bags to the room. The desk also expects you to pay per night if you have not yet paid your full month’s rent, so another 50RMB for the first night. You can go to an ATM the next day and pay for more time but if you plan on buying shampoo, food, etc. be careful of your daily ATM card withdrawal limits. The limit at the ICBC near the Yuquan campus is 3500 RMB, but as far as living expenses this should get you through 2-3 weeks after everything is set up.

**Socks and Underwear (lots)** – The quality and sizing make these staples a bit difficult to find and be comfortable with.

**The Specific Personal Care Products** - ANTI-PERSPIRANT! (They do not sell this in stores), dental floss, and feminine hygiene products, especially tampons (if you want them).

**Photos (passport size)** – Bring about a dozen. You will need these for your student ID, your residency permit application (required), sometimes for hospital registration, entry/exit bureau ID booklet. Computer systems including the National Registration system is not very good, especially when tens of thousands of people share the same name, the only reliable trustworthy solution to this is to require photos for everything
official, be prepared. You can get them there but since you should be taking some with you, you might as well take enough to last (picture printing is *not* cheaper in China).

**Medications, Vitamins, etc.** – Many prescriptions (even basic ones) are not available in China so take enough to last. Over-the-counter medications (including an anti-diarrheal) should also be part of your luggage and will be helpful to have on hand when you wake up with a cold.

**A laptop** – The ZJU wifi works fine with most devices

**Copies of your transcripts (electronic copied and pasted is fine too)** – This may sound ridiculous, but China randomly blocks seemingly innocent websites. Once for about 2 months, the ZJU proxy blocked e-Campus so if you are worried about class sign-ups in the spring, be prepared and have a list of all the classes you have taken on hand. Once again, multiple VPNs are helpful here.

**Take any and all electronics you need** – Planning on buying an external hard drive in China? You will save yourself a great deal of money buying in the States. The same goes for flash drives, memory cards, and digital cameras. Other hardware is cheap, such as laptop fans and mice while software (pirated) is incredibly cheap but doesn’t always work. Computer hot and making an awful whirring noise? If you have a problem, 60kuai and an hour will get you a cleaned laptop, extra RAM, and a replacement cooling fan installed (so don’t get ripped off).

**Stuff from home for bad/sick days** – Nothing will make you feel better than a mug of hot cocoa or chicken soup that tastes like it is from home.

**American trinkets as gifts** – These should be small and make wonderful gifts for new friends and maybe a nicer thing or two for your boss at your internship.

**A towel** – Chinese people are small, so are the towels they use. There are some that are big enough but all towels regardless are very thin and not very absorbent. If this bothers you, be forewarned.

**FLIGHT to HANGZHOU**

If possible, we recommend arriving in Hangzhou rather than Shanghai.

If you arrive in Shanghai Pudong Airport, firstly you need to spend about 1.5 hour on the metro or the airport bus to Shanghai Hongqiao Railway Station, then approximately 1.5 hour on the train to Hangzhoudong Railway Station, then maybe a taxi to campus. Traveling by train is not so easy as in the U.S. in that you will need to buy the ticket using your visa, then go through a security check, and then go through the gate when called, and go to the train and find the seat assigned to you. If you arrive in Shanghai
Hongqiao Airport, it may be easier to go to the Shanghai Hongqiao Railway Station, but the rest is the same. The whole process may take more than half of a day.

If you arrive in Hangzhou Xiaoshan Airport, it may be easier as all you need to do is to find a taxi. Follow the directions provided.

And in any case it is not recommended to take the metro with much luggage, as it's difficult to take care of them especially when the metro is crowded.

Hainan Airline flies from Boston to Beijing then to Hangzhou.
This map shows the location of the international student’s dorm, but not all international students live here. Sometimes you may be placed in Dorm No. 16, which is located just inside from XinQiaoMen (新桥门). Make sure that you know where you are staying in advance so that if you need to ask someone they can point you in the right direction.
Congratulations!! You Have Now Arrived In Hangzhou

Transportation

How do I get from Shanghai Pudong Airport to Hangzhou?

Once you get your luggage, look for the pictures of a bus on the signs. You will leave the populated area, pass the bullet train station and down a long hall. Follow more signs and take an elevator down to the parking lot. There is a small concrete building, go there and ask for tickets, then wait and get on the bus when you hear HANGZHOU yelled.

There is a bus that leaves from the arrivals terminal and goes directly to the Yellow Dragon Sports Center (黄龙中心 – Huanglong Zhongxin) in Hangzhou. A one-way ticket costs about 100 RMB with an extra 10RMB for each piece of luggage. From there, you will need to walk or take a taxi to campus (10RMB cab ride plus 1RMB tax, not a kuai more! There will be hawkers trying to charge 40RMB for a 2 minute ride). See appendix for a list of instructions for the cab driver. Any group travel from URI to Hangzhou will have an arranged bus for pick-ups.

There is another bus terminal on Tiyuchang Road (near Wulin Road), but you will definitely need a cab for the ride to campus.

These routes work both ways and the schedules can be found in the back of MORE Hangzhou magazine.

How do I get from Hangzhou Xiaoshan Airport to Hangzhou?

Take the bus to the Tiyuchang Road (体育场路) bus terminal. A one-way ticket costs about 15 RMB. From there you will need to take a taxi to campus. See appendix for a list of instructions for the cab driver. It is also possible to take a taxi directly from the airport, but this is more expensive and can cost you up to 150 RMB.

Again, these routes work both ways and the schedules can be found in the back of MORE Hangzhou magazine.

What means of transportation can I use to get around Hangzhou?

Public transportation in Hangzhou is convenient and reliable. Public buses generally run from 6 AM until 8 PM, with some exceptions. There are also a few night bus routes. Buses cost between one and three RMB depending on the type of bus. Air-conditioned buses cost two RMB and tourist-route buses usually cost three RMB with the Xihu tour bus costing 5RMB but with your ticket for that day you can get on and off as often as you
wish. Be sure to bring exact change, as bus drivers will not give change. *The easiest way to get around using the buses is to purchase a bus route map from the student supermarket across the street from the International College Building*

Taxis are also fairly inexpensive and are available anytime of day. Drivers do not often speak any English and sometimes cannot read Chinese characters, so see the appendix for a list of handy instructions/phrases to learn and show cab drivers during your first few weeks.

Bicycles can be purchased, brand-new, for less than $30 USD. If you are adventurous, you can purchase an ebike as well, although it is important to follow the correct registration process once you obtain one of these. To do so, get a receipt from the store in which you have purchased the ebike and bring it to your local traffic police station. They will be able to help you with registration. It is recommended to bring a native speaker of Chinese for this whole process (including purchase and registration) so that you do not get ripped off. Pro tip: You can barter for the price of the ebike you want to buy). This is a great way to get around and to see the city. There are bike racks everywhere, but be sure to purchase a lock or two as well. Bikes do get stolen, including e-bikes! Also, people do not wear helmets. Do not be surprised to see a parent with three kids piled on a bike in rush-hour traffic!

**Please take care when riding or walking anywhere in China, as road safety is very different than in the U.S. Pedestrians never have the right-of-way, even in a crosswalk or on a sidewalk, so it is advisable to exercise caution at all times.**

**How do I travel between cities?**

Travel between cities can be done by train or by bus. Train travel is generally cheaper than bus travel, but buses tend to be more comfortable and quicker (depending on traffic).

There are four bus stations in Hangzhou, the North, South, West, and East Bus Stations. Buses to cities north of Hangzhou, Shanghai (上海) for example, leave from the North Bus Station (杭州长–汽, Hangzhou long distance bus station), while cities to the south of Hangzhou such as Wenzhou leave from the South bus station (汽车南站 – qiche nanzhan). Just make sure you specify bus or train because there are south stations for both.

You can buy bus tickets at the actual station *and* surprisingly, at the post office. There is a China Post on Yugu lu between the middle gate and main gate of the Yuquan campus and is about a 15 minute walk from the dorms.

Train tickets can be bought at the station or at a ticket office. There is one on Wen’er lu and one on Yugu Lu. The wen’er lu office is found by walking to Yugu lu taking a left and going straight, eventually you will find it on the right side of the street. The Yugu Lu station is easier, take a right on Yugu Lu walk past the intersection with ZheDa Lu and it
will be on the left side of the street. Both train and bus tickets can be bought one week in advance.

For holidays, students can get 50% off per ticket home, but this does not apply to foreigners.

*NOTE* You can only buy one-way train and bus tickets. The best way to handle this is to buy your return ticket once you arrive at your destination, then grab a bus/cab to your hotel. Often tickets sell out well in advance (especially for trains) so make sure you don’t get stuck Sunday night without a ticket and no hotel room.

Are there rail passes or student rates for travel?
There are, but only for Chinese students, not for foreigners.

Where can I stay when visiting other cities?

There are hostels, which are very cheap (sometimes around $6/night) or you can stay in hotels, which will cost probably $15 or so per person per night. Hostelling International has hostels in major cities in China, including Hangzhou and some smaller cities. Their rates will be equal for all nationalities. Some Chinese hostels and hotels have two different rates, one for Chinese citizens and one for foreigners. Be sure to ask about this when booking a room. Some hotels only cater to Chinese residents. For hotels, www.sinohotel.com and www.ctrip.com are good sites.

You can also look up hotels on WeChat and Alipay and call them in advance to confirm that they allow foreigners before purchasing a reservation.

Logistics for a Semester Abroad

What do I need to do once I arrive?

First get to the university and move into your room. As soon as the workweek starts, go to the International College Office (with two photos) and get your student ID. Ask about Police Registration. You will be given a little pamphlet with the police station address.

How do I register with the police?

Take the police registration packet from ZJU, your passport and at least one photo to the police station. Once you are dropped off at the station (usually in front of the entrance gate) head to the left of the gate. There should be a sign, but if not, the registration office is the first or second down. There is a glass slider window in front. Go in. On the machine, press your visit type and take a ticket. When you are called up to the desk give them all of you paperwork, etc. and pay. Afterwards they will give you a receipt and tell
you to come back in a week. *Keep this safe* this is your temporary passport and if you lose it, you cannot get your real passport back and have to apply for a new one.

When you come back in a week, you should take the receipt and the amount of money listed on the sheet. Once you arrive, go up the stairwell directly to the right of the gate. On the second floor there are 2 doors one on the left and one on the right, head through the one on the left. Go to the second set of help desks and give them the money and receipt. They will then hand over your passport and new residency permit. Regardless of what visa you entered on, your new residency permit will allow you to enter and exit China as you please. Just keep in mind, many Chinese people such as hotel workers do not expect you to have one and will point out that your visa has a big red “CANCELLED” written on it. Flip to the Residency Permit page and say you live in China, it usually fixes the problem.

Living

What is considered a typical meal in Hangzhou?

Breakfast often consists of a couple of dumplings: baozi 包子 (stuffed, steamed bread) or jiaozi 饺子 (thin dough, steamed and stuffed) followed by tea or a yogurt drink. Another typical breakfast item is rice porridge.

Lunch and dinner are similar, and typically are shared with a group of friends or family members either at home or out. A number of dishes are ordered making sure to include vegetables and meats and a variety of tastes – sweet, sour, bitter, etc. Some people eat these dishes with rice, and some prefer to eat rice at the end of the meal. In any case, steamed white rice is a staple in the Chinese diet. In traditional Chinese cooking the watery soup serves as the beverage with tea typically following the meal. Most people choose to drink soda or alcohol during the meal.

Will I have access to a kitchen?

There are small kitchens that provide a hotplate, refrigerators, and hot water in the International Student dormitory. There are no kitchens available in Dorm No. 16

Is there a cafeteria close to the International Student Dorm?

IN ORDER TO PURCHASE FOOD FROM THE CAFETERIAS, YOU WILL NEED TO PUT MONEY ON YOUR ZJU STUDENT ID CARD. This can be done either at
kiosks found throughout the campus (there is one behind Dorm 16) or on Alipay. You can ask a local student how to do this if you are unsure.

There is a cafeteria on the first floor of the International Student Dorm. Although they serve only Chinese dishes, there are ample selections that foreigners typically enjoy. You will have to order from the counter and then hand your receipt to a waitress when you sit down, so that she knows where to deliver your food. They have menu picture cards available and a menu with Pinyin and an English translation to help you in your first few weeks. You can eat for about $2-4 per day. There are also many other cafeterias scattered throughout the campus.

**Will I be able to find Western food in Hangzhou?**

There are many Western restaurants in Hangzhou, and as the city is developing very rapidly, there will be new ones opening everyday. The typical chains are located in Hangzhou – McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Kentucky Fried Chicken, etc. There are also many sit-down restaurants serving Italian, Brazilian, Argentinean, American, and other international foods. Larger supermarkets, including Carrefour and Metro, carry a limited selection of imported foods. However, keep in mind that these Western foods also come at Western price levels.

**Entertainment**

**What do Chinese university students do for fun?**

University social life is very different in China than it is in America. Drinking is not a part of university culture. Most students are living by themselves for the first time and enjoying new social experiences. Although the university has many rules and regulations, students feel a huge sense of independence and freedom at the university. Many students enjoy going to karaoke, or KTV, which is different from in the U.S. In China, renting private rooms (4-30 people) is the norm, with rentals lasting a few hours to the full night. Other popular activities among students are shopping, playing computer games, hiking, and watching movies.

There are many student organizations, most of which are based on the Zijingang Campus which is approximately 40 minutes away by bus. In September, there is百团大战 (Bai3 Tuan2 Da4 Zhan4) where all the student organizations meet to recruit new members, similar to First Night at URI. You can speak to staff to find out more details and specific dates for the events.

**How do I make contact with Chinese students?**

Chinese students are very eager to talk to anyone who comes from outside of China. They will approach you, or you can approach them. Feel free to stop anyone and ask
questions. Students will be very friendly and may invite you for a meal or a game of basketball.

**What sports are popular?**

Basketball, soccer, table tennis, and badminton are the most popular sports. Men and women play table tennis and badminton and consider them physical fitness. Note: Sports which demand more of the cardiovascular system, such as soccer and basketball, tend to be male-dominated.

**Are there athletic facilities on campus?**

There are soccer fields, basketball courts, and a gymnasium with table tennis and badminton courts, as well as a weight room that charges 5RMB as an entrance fee. You can also purchase monthly or yearly passes for more. Equipment at the school gym may not be as modern as the equipment at URI.

There are several gyms within walking distance of the campus. One is located at the Yellow Dragon Sport Center and it is similar to gyms found in the U.S. and costs about $35 per month. Another modern gym is located on the 3rd and 4th floors above Coco club, off of WanTang street. It is a bit cheaper at 650RMB for a year and includes free fitness classes in karate, kickboxing, yoga, and spinning. There is also a pool at the Yellow Dragon Sport Center which charges between 15 and 30 RMB per session. The pool staff may also check your heart and eyes before allowing you into the pool.

**Where can I find out about events and nightlife?**

Get a copy of *Hangzhou More* ([http://www.morehangzhou.com/](http://www.morehangzhou.com/)) and *Zhejiang Intouch* at the beginning of each month. These are free English language magazines with articles on places to visit and current events and are a great resource. In addition to listing events and nightlife, they list important information including bus stations, train stations and schedules, restaurants, health clubs, hotels, etc.

There are also various WeChat groups for foreigners that keep you updated on the happenings in Hangzhou. To get added to these, go to some of the local foreigners hangouts or bars and ask the people there what groups they are a part of.

**Shopping**

**Are there fixed prices or is it appropriate to bargain?**

In department stores, restaurants and grocery stores, they do not bargain. If you try and it is not okay, they will usually say something and shake their head.
Otherwise, bargain! Bargaining is expected in small shops and at street vendors. Vendors *will* offer you a very high price when they see that you are a foreigner, so your counter-offer should be much lower. In fact it is much better to *not* make a counter offer and you should ask them what they think is fair. When it is too high, do it again until it is reasonable. This works out much better because being willing to pay $2 for something doesn’t mean it didn’t cost 50 cents to make. Letting the shop keeper pick their own price means they are thinking about how much they paid and an amount they would be willing to and expected to make off of it.

You should definitely observe some locals to learn more bargaining tactics. Foreigners are often much more intense with bargaining than young Chinese but you *do* need to be.

**Bargaining etiquette** If you give your final price and they agree to it, you must buy the item.

**Attitude towards Americans**

**What is the general feeling towards Americans in China?**

Americans (and other Westerners) receive a lot of attention in China. People there are very curious and anxious to talk to Americans. For many this is more of a chance to practice speaking English than a genuine interest in learning more about America, but for others there is genuine interest in knowing what Americans are like and how they think and act. Hangzhou is a fairly large city, but away from West Lake, you might not cross paths with another non-Chinese person for days. Expect to be stopped by complete strangers and asked to be in a photo. Expect to hear strangers stare and say “Hello!” or point and say “lao wai!” (Lao wai is Chinese for foreigner, but is not considered derogatory.) My suggestion would be to either say hello or ni hao back to the people, or just ignore them. Do not take offense.

**Language**

**Do they speak Mandarin in Hangzhou?**

The local people speak Hangzhou dialect (*Hangzhou hua* 杭州话), but most will understand Mandarin. It is difficult for Chinese people from other areas to understand the Hangzhou dialect, so do not get discouraged. Education is conducted in the Mandarin dialect, so students and professionals will speak Mandarin, but taxi drivers, salespeople, and especially waitstaff may only speak with Hangzhou’s dialect or their own home town dialects.
How fast should I expect my language skills to progress?

Expect to feel a little lost for the first few weeks. Your language classes will be very intensive though, so progress should be very noticeable provided you go out and practice with native speakers regularly. It would be a good idea to find a language exchange partner, someone with whom you agree to meet regularly and with whom you spend, for example, an hour speaking Chinese and then an hour speaking English.

Zhejiang University

What is the International Center?

The International Center functions as an international student dormitory and also houses administrative offices and classrooms for the Chinese as a Foreign Language program and a dining hall. This is most likely where you will live and study Chinese while at Zhejiang University.

Who are the students?

Students living and studying in the International Center come from all over the world, but the largest percentage come from Korea, Japan, and Thailand.

What services or programs are offered?

Chinese language and culture courses are offered through the International Center depending on your Chinese Language level. Part-way through the semester you can choose to enroll in Chinese cultural courses, such as Tai Chi, Chinese Calligraphy, Gong-fu, Business Chinese Conversation, Chinese Painting, etc. These are typically once a week. To learn more about these, speak to someone at the International Center.

The International Center plans one trip each semester and *may* arrange a trip for winter vacation.

The Dorms

The dorms for International students living on the Yuquan campus are in the International College Building and in the No. 31 Student Building. They have beds, showers, bathrooms, desks, dressers, and an AC/Heating system.

If you ask for a single you will be in the International College Building. The "fuwuyuans" will not clean your room or change your sheets and towels. You can have these done for a fee. For 20 RMB they will clean your room once and change your sheets/towels. Your other option is to exchange your sheets and towels. To do this, take your sheets and
towels to the fuwuyuan desk on the 2nd floor of tower 1 in the International College Building. The *fuwuyuan* there will look at your items, decide how dirty they are and then give you a receipt. Take this down to the main desk, pay, then return to the 2nd floor desk and they will give you new towels and sheets. Sheets and pillow cases are about 5 RMB and if you are changing towels it comes out to about 7RMB (the same price as a load of laundry but you don’t have to wait or worry about lines).

You can do laundry yourself in the basement of the International dorms. To get the washers running, simply scan the appropriate QR code on the washers and go through the app. Otherwise, you can take your clothes to the Ayi on the right side of Dorm No. 8 (opposite the offices) and she will wash them for you at a cost of 40-60rmb each time.

Living in a single means you get 60RMB of electricity per month. You need to claim it at the front desk or they won’t add it to your meter. If you don’t claim it that month, you can’t go and claim two months worth past the 1st of the next month, so keep on it. Otherwise, you will probably run out and have to pay much more money than you should.

**Getting Locked Out**

If you are in building no. 31 you will have a scan card and a physical key. If you lock yourself out go down to the main desk and tell them. If it is at night, hope your roommate has their key because you won’t be let in by the night guards. If you live in the International College, you can go down to the desk, sign the book, and they will send a person to go unlock your door. Past 10PM or 11PM or so, the *fuwuyuans* behind the desk go to bed, if you don’t have your key and need to get in your room, you may be out of luck. There is a buzzer in case of emergencies, but if using this somehow does not work, in case of a *real* emergency the guards will assist you.

If your card stops working just go down to the desk and say so. Usually they are programmed to work for the period of time you paid for. The front desk does not typically reprogram your card every time you pay and sometimes it will just stop working and needs to be fixed.

**Classes**

**What sort of classes will I take?**

The core courses you will be taking are Chinese language courses. These are typically scheduled at 20 or more hours a week with about four hours of class per day.

There are also hundreds of courses like art, tea science, cryogenics, and medicine. You just need to find these classes and then convince the professors teaching them to let you register.
How do I sign-up for classes?

Update 2020:
Registering for classes was actually quite simple. Just before the beginning of the semester they will have a registration event set up on the first floor of the International Building. There they will check to confirm that you have prepaid (as a URI student, yes you have), and will then give you your ZJU student ID and all the papers you need to connect to the wifi and set up a bank account. They will also have you sign up for/take some appraisal tests to determine your level of Chinese. Depending on the results of your test, they will place you in the appropriate classes and advise you on the registration process. Note: the registration window is very short, only about 48 hours, so do not wait to sign up!

● Following that, international students are required to get teacher signatures during the first week.

● The drop period for classes is seemingly done at random. The online system will always offer you the option but will rarely actually drop the courses. Sometimes it says it works, but always double check your 'signed up schedule' for confirmation.
  ○ The online system presents you with 2 schedules. One is for all the classes you have 'shown interest in', sort of a planned schedule. You cannot drop from here. The 'real' schedule is located deep within the hidden online treasure trove of secrets. I.E not labeled under "安排."

● Remember, the most important thing is cell phone numbers. These get you into classes, help you get through classes, and at the end of the course, help you get grades. Use wechat with your teachers to communicate! Most of the language teachers are very helpful and understanding, they are also slightly more used to working with non-Chinese students who use different educational systems.

What is the style of teaching in China?

In your language classes, teachers will interact with students in the form of asking many more questions than is typical in a lecture. The overall feel of a Chinese class is different and often the speed at which you advance through the book may be much faster than you are accustomed to. Often it is necessary to ask for a review of materials because before an exam, teachers may not have a review class and could continue to teach material that won’t even appear on the tests. You may find there to be a lack of positive feedback from teachers, or that feedback more blunt than what you have previously experienced, as a teacher could announce who received the best or worst grades as a way to try and motivate students. For example, some dictations grades will come back with comments like “study!” or “poor work!” while others come back with no grade because your teacher considered it not acceptable.
Feedback may seem discouraging or harsh at times, so try your best and do not hesitate to approach the teacher with any issues. This being said, make sure you ask your teacher for their office number, as they may not always give it. Also, make sure which campus it is on and try to set up an appointment in advance. Teachers may not answer emails (even when they are written in Chinese) but may instead respond to texts, which are quite appropriate to use with Chinese language teachers. Even when you do make an appointment, it is best you get their cell phone number and call/text them before you head to the meeting.

In an actual ZJU class, you just show up, watch the teacher’s PowerPoint presentation, maybe discuss a little, and leave.

**What is the grading system like?**

The grading system is the same number-wise as in the U.S. Grades are out of 100 points. The difference is in the interpretation of grades, typically grades in the 60s are celebrated as passing with 70’s and 80’s being considered very good and grades in the 90’s almost impossible. Letter grades are not used. Often, around 30% of your total grade comes from attendance and taking finals are restricted to students who have not missed more than one-third of the classes, so the best advice is to go to class!

**University Rules**

In China, most universities are very strict about curfews and may turn off electricity to encourage students to go to bed. During exam time, some students may stay up for extra study time, but otherwise would want to be home before any curfew. Be mindful of this when inviting friends out.

The most important thing to remember is that for international students living in international study buildings on the Zijingang and Yuquan campuses do not have a curfew and have electricity in their dorm 24/7.

**Handy Phrases**

Please take me to the Yuquan campus back gate on Xixi Lu.

请带我去浙江大学玉泉校区西溪路后门。
Qǐng dài wǒ qù zhèjiāngdàxué yùquán xiàoqū xīxīlù hòumén.

请带我去浙江大学玉泉校区西溪路北门。
Qǐng dài wǒ qù zhèjiāngdàxué yùquán xiàoqū xīxīlú běimén.
Some cab drivers only know north gate while others are more comfortable with back gate, both are correct and the same exact place.

Please take me to the train station.

请带我去杭州火车站。

Qǐng dài wǒ qù hángzhōu huǒchēzhàn.

Healthcare

Is there a clinic or hospital nearby?

There is a clinic next door to the International Center, where international students can get medical service and are typically prescribed IV medications even for colds. To most effectively navigate this medical setting, it is suggested that you take a translator with you and to bring a translated list of your symptoms with you as well (try https://dict.naver.com/linedict/zhendict/dict.html/#/cnen/home). Feel free to take a good friend who can translate or ask someone in the International College to accompany you, they can also help to schedule appointments.

For more serious illnesses or injuries and advanced medical treatment, there is Sir Run Run Hospital (which is endorsed by the International College). Just ensure you first visit the International Clinic which is open from M-F until 5PM. Any other time, the Number Two Hospital (one of ZJUs research hospitals) would be your better choice.

What is going to the doctors like in China?

● Be prepared: Grab a lot of RMB, some kind of bag, a book/homework, your passport and student ID and head to the hospital.
● You may need to pay for each treatment/service at different stages during the visit.
● You will need to explain what type of visit this is, and get registered and keep track of some medical documentation given to you.
● Locate your doctor and pay attention to the waiting process there (if there is one). Heads up - you may need to explain what is going on with you in front of others who are also there.
● You may need to complete follow-up testing. Afterwards, the doctor will tell you what is wrong and prescribe medications. He/she will also tell you how to take them. Be sure to mention if you have any known allergies.
● Go to the pharmacy and pick up them up. Take as directed. These may not be in pill form, like you may be accustomed to. The medication regimen may require getting IV medications, and will entail other documentation and possibly another payment. Be sure to follow all directions/cues given for how to receive the IV treatment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sore Throat</td>
<td>咽喉痛 - yānhóutòng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flu</td>
<td>流感 - liúgān</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>发烧 - fāshāo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold</td>
<td>感冒 - gǎnmào</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cramp</td>
<td>抽筋 - chōujīn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>哮喘 - xiàochuǎn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To sneeze</td>
<td>打喷嚏 - dăpēntì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alergy</td>
<td>过敏 - guòmǐn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>头疼 - tóuténg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>糖尿病 - tángniàobìng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>咳嗽 - késou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fracture</td>
<td>骨折 - gǔzhé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stomach Ache</td>
<td>胃痛 - wèitòng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strep Throat</td>
<td>链球菌性咽喉炎 - liànqíújūnxìngyānhóuyán</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>恶心 - ěxīn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STD</td>
<td>性传染病 - xìng chuán rǎn bìng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nosebleed</td>
<td>鼻出血 - bíchūxiě</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be pregnant</td>
<td>怀孕 - huáiyùn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>皮疹 - pízhěn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bronchitis</td>
<td>支气管炎 - zhīqìguǎnyá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earache</td>
<td>耳痛 - ěr tòng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Faint</td>
<td>昏倒 - hūndǎo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redness</td>
<td>红色 - hóng sè</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flatulent</td>
<td>气胀的 - qì zhàng de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>拉肚子 - lādùzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painful Urination</td>
<td>疼痛的排尿 - téngtòngdépáiniào</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharge</td>
<td>分泌物 - fēnmìwù</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itchy</td>
<td>发痒症 - fāyǎngzhēng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To burn(eyes, throat, etc)</td>
<td>灼痛 - zhuótóng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chills</td>
<td>着凉 - zháoliáng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhaustion</td>
<td>精疲力竭 - jīngpílìjié</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constipation</td>
<td>便秘 - biànmì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To have pain when breathing</td>
<td>岔气 - chàqì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numb</td>
<td>麻木 - mámù</td>
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